

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1716

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUCHAREST 0610

LIMDIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y - PARAS THREE AND FOUR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CVIS CPAS RO

SUBJECT: POSITIVE SHIFT IN ROMANIAN EMIGRATION POLICY

REF: OM OF SEPTEMBER 12, 1974; BUCHAREST 5285

1. SUMMARY. ON FEBRUARY 11, CONSOFF MET WITH REPS OF CONSULAR DIRECTORATE OF MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS TO REVIEW LISTS OF DUAL NATIONALS AND ROMANIANS WITH FAMILIES IN U.S. DISCUSSIONS ALSO INCLUDED MARRIAGES. ROMANIANS SEEMED ANXIOUS TO RESOLVE FAVORABLY OUTSTANDING EMIGRATION PROBLEMS WHICH HAVE BEEN IRRITANT IN US-ROMANIAN RUATIONS, AND ANNOUNCED 36 CASES HAD RECEIVED APPROVAL TO EMIGRATE. THEY ALSO INDICATED THEY WOULD ASSIST IN EXPEDITING APPROPELS FOR 111 ADDITIONAL CASES, CLARIFIED THE STATUS OF 25 MARRIAGE CASES, AND WERE CURRENTLY CONSIDERING ANOTHER 86 EMIGRATION CASES WHICH THEY HOPE TO RESOLVE IN THE NEAR FUTURE. THIS ACCOUNTS FOR THE TOTAL NUMBER ON OUR SEPTEMBER 1974 REPRESENTATIONAL LIST. END SUMMARY.

2. ON MORNING OF FEBRUARY 11, CONSOFF MET WITH STELIAN MATEI, FIRST SECRETARY OF THE CONSULAR DIRECTORATE, MFA, AND SECOND SECRETARY RADU GRIGORE. WORKING FOR MORE THAN THREE HOURS, CONFIDENTIAL

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MFA OFFICIALS EXAMINED ON CASE BY CASE BASIS EACH NAME ON OUR LIST

OF SEPTEMBER 1, 1974. (SEE REF OM SEPTEMBER 12, 1974).

3. MINISTRY OFFICIALS ANNOUNCED THAT 36 CASES (121 PERSONS), INCLUDING BOTH DUAL NATIONALS AND EMIGRANTS, WERE APPROVED. THEY INDICATED THAT FIVE PERSONS HAD DEFINITELY RENOUNCED IDEA OF LEAVING. IN ADDITION, THEY STATED THAT 111 CASES HAD NOT BEEN RESOLVED BECAUSE APPLICANTS HAD NOT APPLIED FOR EXIT PERMITS.

4. CONSOFF IMMEDIATELY REQUESTED CLARIFICATION CONCERNING THE 111 CASES (INVOLVING AN ESTIMATED 327 PERSONS) AND WAS TOLD BY MFA OFFICIALS THAT INVESTIGATIONS INDICATED THESE PEOPLE HAD NOT APPLIED FOR DEPARTURE FROM ROMANIA IN LAST SEVERAL YEARS. AFTER CONSOFF POINTED OUT MANY OF THEM HAD BEEN UNABLE TO APPLY FOR DEPARTURE, MFA OFFICIALS PLEDGED TO USE MINISTRY'S GOOD OFFICES UPON INDIVIDUAL REQUEST BY EMBASSY TO ASSIST ANY APPLICANT WITH SUCH PROBLEMS IN PAST IN APPLYING ANEW FOR EXIT PERMITS. FYI: MANY OF OTHERS REPEATEDLY APPLIED IN THE PAST, THEIR REQUESTS WERE DENIED, AND THEY HAVE SINCE GIVEN UP TRYING LEAVE ROMANIA. END FYI THE COMMITMENT BY MFA TO INTERCEDE ON BEHALF OF THESE PERSONS REPRESENTS A SIGNIFICANT CHANGE IN ROMANIAN POLICY SO FAR AS EMIGRATION TO US IS CONCERNED.

5. MFA OFFICIALS ALSO INDICATED APPROXIMATELY 86 REMAINING IMMIGRATION CASES ON THE LIST (APPROXIMATELY 184 PERSONS) ARE BEING PROCESSED AT CURRENT TIME. OF THIS GROUP, 44 ARE CASES PREVIOUSLY JRNIED WHICH ARE NOW BEING RECONSIDERED BY GOR.

6. FINALLY, CONSOFF DISCUSSED ALL PENDING MARRIAGE CASES ON LIST WITH MFA OFFICIALS AND WAS TOLD 16 HAVE BEEN APPROVED, 7 ARE NOW BEING CONSIDERED, AND TWO OTHERS HAVE RENOUNCED THEIR INTENTION TO MARRY.

7. COMMENT: DURING MEETING, MFA OFFICIALS APPEARED ANXIOUS TO GIVE IMPRESSION OF BEING FORTHCOMING ON EMIGRATION. THEY PURPOSELY AVOIDED USING THE WORD "REFUSAL" AND INDICATED THAT ALL NAMES ON THE SEPTEMBER LIST WERE UNDER ACTIVE CONSIDERATION SO LONG AS THERE WAS A RECORD OF THEIR HAVING APPLIED FOR EXIT PERIMITS. THEY ALSO SHOWED NEW FLEXIBILITY ON QUESTION OF DUAL NATIONALS; LAST YEAR ONLY 18 WERE ALLOWED TO DEPART, CONFIDENTIAL

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BUT NOW MFA OFFICIALS INDICATE THAT AN ADDITIONAL 44 ARE BEING CONSIDERED FOR EMIGRATION, AND THAT OTHERS ON OUR LIST WILL ALSO BE RECONSIDERED AS SOON AS THEY RE-APPLY AT LOCAL PASSPORT OFFICES. DURING CONVERSATIONS, THE SAME OFFICIALS MADE FREQUENT REFERENCES TO FONMIN MACOVESCU'S ESIRE TO RESOLVE MARRIAGES AND DIVIDED FAMILIES ISSUES TO THE MUTUAL SATISFACTION OF BOTH COUNTRIES.

8. ACTION: EMBASSY HAS PREPARED LETTERS TO ALL APPLICANTS FOR WHO MFA CLAIMS TO HAVE MG RECORDS, INVITING THEM TO VISIT EMBASSY AT EARLIEST POSSIBLE OPPORTUNITY TO REVIEW THEIR CASE WITH CONSOFF. CONSOFF LIKEWISE INFORMED MFA THAT EMBASSY IS PREPARING A REVISED WORKING LIST, WITH ADDITIONS TO OUR SEPTEMBER LIST, WHICH EMBASSY WILL SUBMIT FOR MFA'S CONSIDERATION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. MFA OFFICIALS IMMEDIATELY OFFERED TO GO OVER NEW LIST WITH EMBASSY WHEN READY, AND REITERATED DESIRE TO ASSIST IN SOLUTION OF OUTSTANDING EMIGRATION PROBLEMS BETWEEN US AND ROMANIA AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

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